

**LEGAL & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

SIGN IN

RON SIMPSON

BILL DAVIS

GERALD WILLIAMS

VIRGIL KAMBARIAN

ED HAGNAUER

WALMER SCHMIDTKE

DON THOMPSON

PAUL JACKSTADT

BRIAN KONZEN

JUDY WHITAKER

ALDERMAN SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

SIMPSON STATED THAT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT JIM GREENWALD WILL HAVE A PRESENTATION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX REFERENDUM AND TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO GREENWALD.

GREENWALD STATED THAT AT THE NOV. 18TH, 2014 THE BOARD MEETING, THE BOARD ALLOWED THE TAX REFERENDUM TO GO ON THE APRIL 7TH, 2015 BALLOT. THE REASON FOR DOING THIS IS WE HAVE TO GENERATE LOCAL REVENUE DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE STATE AND YOU WILL HERE ME EMPHASIZE LACK OF FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AS THE PRINCIPAL REASON THIS IS TAKING PLACE TONIGHT. WE WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT 80% OF THESE TAX REFERENDUMS FAIL. WE KNOW THAT THAT THIS WILL BE A MAYOR CHALLENGE; WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN; NOT JUST FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. WE ARE ASKING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE MASS RATE FROM 2.55 TO 3.55 OR .86; BASED ON A 33 THOUSAND ASSESS VALUATION OF A HOME IT WOULD BE AN INCREASE OF \$267.00; WITH THE TAX INCREASE WE WOULD BE INVESTING PROPERTY, SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND COMMUNITY. THIS WOULD BE A 3.8 MILLION DOLLAR ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL EVERY YEAR FROM NOW ON. IF THIS PASSES TAX PAYERS WOULD WE PAYING APPROXIMATELY WHAT WE PAID IN THE PAST PRIOR 3YRS. DISTRICT 9 WILL BE ABLE TO MEET CURRANT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, NECESSARY MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEARNING TOOLS. THIS IS TO MAINTAIN, SUSTAIN, AND CONTINUE OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO PREVENT FURTHER LAYOFFS AND PROGRAM REDUCTIONS. WE ARE AT FINANCIAL CROSSROAD. AS I STATED BEFORE STATE AND LOCAL FUNDS THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES.

GREENWALD STATED THAT WE HAVE CLOSED NIEDRINGHAUS; REDISTRICT; AND REDUCED STAFF THREW ATTRITION, AND AS FOR AS BARROWING 10 MILLION DOLLARS THAT ALSO INCREASES THE TAX PAYERS TAXES ALSO. AS FAR AS THAT GOES I WOULD RATHER GO TO THE TAX PAYER IN A RAISE THEN A BARROWING IT. WE DON'T KNOW THAT WE COULD EVEN BARROW ANY MONEY. THIS IS NOT ABOUT FOOTBALL OR BAND IT IS ABOUT MAINTAINING AND SUSTAINING. THERE IS NO MORE MONEY TO CUT OR SAVE. YOU WILL SEE THE NUMBERS ON THE SCREEN. WE ARE PROVIDING THE BASIC NECESSITIES; THE SITUATION HAS DRASTICALLY CHANGE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS STATE FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF 8.5 MILLION IN GENERAL STATE AID; 3.5 IN TRANSPORTATION AND OTHERS FOR A TOTAL IN THE AMOUNT OF 12 MILLION DOLLARS. THE 4 YRS TREND FROM 2011 TILL 2015 YOU CAN SEE THE TREND. THE CHART SHOWS THE REDUCTION IN TEACHERS, CUSTODIANS, SECRETARIES, TEC, TRUANCY AND OTHER STAFF; FOR A TOTAL REDUCTION OF 13 PEOPLE. IF THE TAX REFERENDUM DOESN'T PASS WE WILL ATTEMPT TO BARROW MONEY AND IMPLEMENT DRASTIC CUTS. WE KNOW ITS NOT GOING TO BE EASY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GREENWALD.

GREENWALD STATED THAT IF THIS PASSES WE WILL HAVE MORE STABILITY THAN WE HAVE HAD IN SOME TIME.

MOTION BY SIMPSON, SECOND BY KAMBARIAN TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED.

MEETING ADJOURNED.